



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: The Gifts from Jesus (Spring)  
Year 1, Lesson 52

# 3,000 Are Baptized

**Bible Event:** Acts 2:14-41

**Take Home Point:** \*THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BELIEVE – *Believe in Jesus.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** The Holy Spirit shows us Jesus is Lord.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that Jesus wanted us to believe in him and be baptized. Baptism is about promises. When we are baptized, it shows God's promise to us that we are God's children. When we are baptized, we are also making a promise to God to believe in him and his Son Jesus. Kids will take home the point: **\*THE SPIRIT HELPS US BELIEVE – *Believe in Jesus.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

**Lesson 52 - 1**



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Your choice, if available.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Simple Storytelling

Reading a Bible Story or telling a Bible event can be done effectively with expressive voice and dramatic gestures.

Use masking tape on the floor to divide the children into three groups as they listen to the story. Each group will be assigned a phrase to repeat throughout the storytelling.

- Group **one** will repeat the phrase, "What do we do?"
- Group **two** will repeat, "I'm sorry for my sin." And,
- Group **three** will say, "I believe in Jesus."

It may help to have each group learn and practice their lines before starting the story.

**Presenter:** Last week, we talked about Jesus' Spirit coming at Pentecost. Do you remember what happened? First, the wind came. Then the flames came and the people started speaking in all of those languages. Jesus' Spirit was in their hearts, just like he's still in our hearts today. Here's the true Bible event about what happened next.

There were thousands of people gathered around when this happened. When they knew that it was Jesus' Spirit that had come, they didn't know what to do next. So one of Jesus' disciples named Peter decided to tell the people about Jesus. He reminded everyone of what Jesus had done for us. Peter talked about how Jesus did

amazing miracles and helped people. He told them about how Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins. And he reminded them about how Jesus didn't stay dead, but rose again! And now Jesus sent his Spirit to be with us always!

The thousands of people who were listening to Peter believed what he said and wanted to do more! They said to Peter, (have group one repeat this line several times). "What should we do?" Peter's answer was, "Believe and be baptized."

Here's what the people had to do: They needed to say and believe two things. So the people said, (have group two repeat this line several times.) "I'm sorry for my sin!" and (have group three repeat this line several times) and "I believe in Jesus!" Let the three groups all say their lines in order a few times.

After this, the people were baptized! (Lightly spray children with a squirt gun or bottle if desired.) In all, 3000 people were baptized that day! When they were baptized, they were showing people that they believed in Jesus and Jesus was telling them "You belong to me." Jesus wasn't actually there to say those words, but his Spirit filled all their hearts, just like his Spirit fills our hearts today.

Always remember: \*THE SPIRIT HELPS US BELIEVE – *Believe in Jesus.*



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

**Snack Zone:** Provide each child with a small glass of blue-tinted milk and some Teddy Grahams to “baptize.”

**HEALTHY SNACK OPTION:** Use plain water and have the children “baptize” peas, carrots, tomatoes or cucumbers as in the Veggie Tales Series.

**Drama Zone:** Have children practice doll baptisms. Provide dolls that can get wet along with tubs of water, pitchers, towels etc.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to practice counting. How many people does God want to be baptized? Keep counting!

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of 3000 Are Baptized from today’s Bible event.

**Craft Zone:** Create a baptism banner. Give each child a half sheet or a whole sheet of white cardstock with the “I am God’s Child” template. Glue a small seashell (real, a sticker, or a paper cut out) on the banner. Decorate the banner with markers, crayons, etc. Punch holes at the top corners and attach yarn to complete the banner.

**Play Zone:** Provide tubs of water with shells, toy people to baptize and possibly some sand. Another option: Attach large sheets of butcher paper to a wall and allow children to spray the paper with colored water in squirt bottles.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the Baptism of 3,000.

**Music Zone:** Your choice of music.

**Coloring Zone:** “3,000 are Baptized” coloring page



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

### Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes onto stage with her baptism banner around her neck and has a question. She wants to know how she can be sure that she is God's child. She can't see God and can't always feel him, so how does she know that God really loves her?

The large group presenter explains that sometimes it is hard to trust something that we can't see or feel. But the truth is that God made us a promise in his word, the Bible, and he never breaks his promises.

Also when we are baptized, God says that we are his special children whom he loves very much. He will never break that promise to us. And when we are baptized, we also make a promise to God to show that we believe in Jesus. So even though we may not be able to see God, when we trust and believe in Jesus with all our heart and remember our baptism, we will have his love in our hearts forever. Remember: **\*THE SPIRIT HELPS US BELIEVE – Believe in Jesus.**

### Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

### "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross your hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## **Closing Zones:**

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- Bible
- masking tape

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- Teddy Graham crackers
- milk
- blue food coloring

### *Drama:*

- dolls (that can get wet)
- tubs of water and cups or pitchers
- towels

### *Craft:*

- half sheets of cardstock with "I am God's Child" template
- markers and crayons
- glue
- small sea shells (real, stickers or paper cut-outs)
- hole punch
- yarn

### *Play:*

- tubs of water
- shells
- toy people to dunk
- *optional:* sand
- *optional:* colored water in squirt bottles
- *optional:* butcher paper

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books

### *Music:*

- your choice of music

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to reenact story

## *Closing Worship:*

- Judy, the puppet
- completed baptism banner

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

I am  
God's Child